

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of all claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Pensak et al. '450 is respectfully traversed.

As previously explained, the applicant's claimed invention is directed to an interface device -- a hardware apparatus which is separate and apart from a host computer -- but which interfaces therewith (e.g., plugs thereinto).

Pensak does not in any way teach such a computer/network interface device. Instead, Pensak teaches a typical arrangement of host computers interfacing with a remote encryption/decryption key server. The server provides encryption keys and decryption keys based upon various other kinds of security (e.g., passwords or the like). Communication between the various servers (e.g., between the authoring tool 102, the remote server 106 and the viewing tool 104 are all the usual internet communication links. The "viewing tool" 104 is actually just another application program running on the viewing user computer 232. The reference to a standard "plug in" with respect to the application interface does not relate to a physical device that "plugs in". Instead as is well known in the art, such a "plug in" (e.g., to Adobe Acrobat Exchange®) is entirely realized in software -- just another application program running on the viewing user's computer.

Insofar as hardware devices are concerned, Pensak discloses only conventional hardware computer/network interfaces -- none of which comprise any of the integers recited in applicant's

apparatus claims. Perhaps this is especially self-evident with respect to claim 24 which requires a host/network interface apparatus adapted to be plugged into a host, such apparatus including two different communication ports, a data processor performing cryptographic operations on data received through at least one of those ports and then means arranged to pass such cryptographically processed data exclusively to the other of the ports.

The Examiner's quotation of applicant's claim language followed by parenthetical references that are inapplicable thereto clearly do not demonstrate anticipation of any claim -- nor is there any suggestion anywhere in Pensak of a separate physical hardware computer/network interface device (as opposed to application software running on standard host computers interconnected with standard networks).

The claims have been further amended above in an effort to make it even more self-evident that references such as Pensak are totally irrelevant with respect to the applicant's claimed invention.

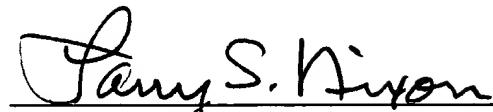
Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable form and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

HILL et al
Appl. No. 09/805,376
August 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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